

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11, 20-22 and 31-33 are now pending in the application, with Claims 9, 20 and 31 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 9, 11, 20, 22, 31 and 33 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 20, 21, 31 and 32 recite allowable subject matter. In addition, although not explicitly noted by the Examiner, Claims 9 and 10, which were similar to Claims 20 and 21, but directed to an apparatus, are also believed to recite allowable subject matter. Claims 9, 20 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form herein. Accordingly, independent Claims 9, 20 and 31 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 10, 11, 21, 22, 32 and 33, which depend from the independent claims, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 was objected to for an informality and Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 10 has been cancelled herein and Claim 9 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and § 112 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27 and 30 have been cancelled herein, and Claims 11, 22 and 33 have been amended to depend from an allowable claim, thus rendering this rejection moot. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicant's current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of certain rejected claims.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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